

3 ~~a second device~~  
4 a first interface coupled to the first device and the second  
5 device;  
6 a second interface coupled to the first device and the second  
7 device; wherein the  
8 first interface and the second interface are assigned an  
9 identifier that identifies a path between the first device and the  
10 ~~second device~~ --

1 --41. A network device, comprising:  
2 a first port that connects to a first interface;  
3 a second port connects to a second interface;  
4 a trunking pseudo driver, coupled to the first port and the  
5 second port, that allows the first interface and second interface  
6 to emulate a single high speed device for operating in a local  
7 area network environment. --

#### REMARKS

In the above-noted Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. Claims 11, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Choquier et al. under 35 USC 103.

In response to this rejection, it is noted that the issue date of Saito et al. is March 24, 1998, and the issue date of Choquier et al. is June 30, 1998. Inasmuch as the subject application has a filing date of March 7, 1997, it is submitted that the references relied upon by the Office Action are not prior

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art under 35 USC 102(b) as alleged by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the foregoing rejections are requested.

In addition, in the Office Action, it is contended that "emulating a single high speed interface with a plurality of interfaces" as recited in Claim 1 is met by column 2, lines 63- column 3, line 56 of Saito et al. This aspect of the present invention is implemented using a trunk connection assigned and identifier as indicated in the Specification at page 10, line 20- page 11, line 13. In this connection, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 19, 24 and 32 to clarify that the plurality of interfaces are assigned an associated identifier that identifies the connection between the first and second devices. Inasmuch as dependent claims 2-10 incorporate this limitation as well, it is submitted that such dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over Saito et al. As to claims 11, 33 and 34 which are rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Saito et al. in view of Choquier et al., it is noted that Claim 11 also depends from Claim 1, and Claims 33 and 34 depend from Claim 32 which has been amended in a similar fashion. Inasmuch as Choquier et al. does not provide the missing teaching, it is submitted that the combination of Saito et al. and Choquier et al. do not render claims 11, 33 and 34 obvious.

As to claims 12-37 which the Examiner contends contain similar limitations set forth as method claims 1-11, and are rejected for the same reason, Applicant submits that such claims are also allowable for the reasons discussed above.

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Additionally, with respect to added claims 38-41, such claims are similar to original claims 1, 19, 24, and 32 respectively excepting that it has been clarified that such claims are directed to use in a local area network. Clearly, Saito et al. and Choquier et al. do not supply the missing teachings in a local area network environment.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), the Applicant for the above-identified application respectfully petitions the Commissioner for a three (3) month extension of time, extending the period for response to August 26, 1999 from the Office Action dated February 26, 1999. A fee transmittal authorizing this charge to our deposit account is enclosed herewith.

If it should be determined that a longer extension of time is required to prevent this application from being abandoned, please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: 8/25 1999

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

8/25 1999 by Eric S. Hyman 8/26/99  
Name Date